

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 SSO-00

INRE-00 /024 W

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O 291710Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9010

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NEW PAN AM (PA) SCHEDULE FILINGS

REF: STATE 262147

1. PAN AM (PA) HAD TOLD US ABOUT THE REJECTION OF THEIR SCHEDULE FILING AND ECOM COUNSELOR HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING DISCUSS MATTER WITH DIRECTOR NEME OF DNTAC SINCE AFTERNOON OF 27TH. WHILE NEME WAS IN MIDST OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRAZILIANS (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND NOT GOING WELL FOR GOA) IT IS OUR IMPRESSION HE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY UNTIL NOV. 29.

2. EMBASSY, MEANWHILE, ALERTED AND BRIEFED NORTH AMERICAN DESK AND AIR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND CHARGE URGED FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY DESMARAS MORNING NOV. 29 TO LOOK INTO AND ASSIST WITH RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. NEME TELEPHONED ECOM COUNS SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND SAID THAT HE WISHED EMBASSY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND DNTAC POSITION ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT, RPT NOT, REVERSE HIS DECISION RE PA FILING. HE REFERRED TO A 1972 RESOLUTION WHICH AUTHORIZED PA'S CHANGE OF GAUGE AT PANAMA AND ONLY AT PANAMA AND SAID THAT WHILE THIS COULD BE CHANGED, HE DID NOT PLAN TO DO SO. THE SUBSTANTIVE REASONS FOR REFUSING PA WERE C A) ON DEC 9 A

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VENEZUELAN CIVIL AIR DELEGATION WOULD ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES

AND NEME EXPECTED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED ON AERO-LINEAS/VIASA ROUTES BETWEEN B.A. AND CARACAS, WOTH SERVICE ONWARD TO THE WEST COAST OF THE US. NEME SAID HE SAW NO REASON TO AUTHORIZE PA'S USE OF 747S FROM US ALL THE WAY TO CARACAS WHEN THIS WOULD GIVE COMPETITIVE IMPROVEMENT TO PA INSO-FAR AS THE CARACAS/WEST COAST ROUTES WERE CONCERNED; AND B) THE PRINCIPAL REASON, NEME EMPHASIZED, FOR HIS REJECTION OF THE PA FILING WAS THAT, IN THE PRESENT STATE OF US/GOA CIVIL AIR RELATIONS, THE DNTAC WOULD NOT, RPT NOT, AUTHORIZE ANY CHANGE OF SUBSTANCE WHATSOEVER IN PA OR BRANIFF SCHEDULES. WHILE HE DID NOT WISH TO ROCK THE BOAT ANY FURTHER, HE WOULD ALSO NOT AGREE TO CHANGES FROM THE STATUS QUO UNTIL SOME FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE WAY OF COMMUNICATION OR DISCUSSIONS WERE MADE IN THE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED US/GOA NEGOTIATIONS.

3. NEME WAS ADAMANT IN THIS POSITION, WAS NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ARGUMENTATION, AND TOLD ECOM COUNS POLITELY BUT FIRMLY THAT HE WAS NOT TRYING TO CONVINCE ECOM COUNS. BUT ONLY TO BE SURE EMBASSY WAS ACCURATELY INFORMED. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT HE RECOGNIZED PA'S DIFFICULTIES IN CHANGING SCHEDULES AT THE LAST MOMENT AND THAT PA WAS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THE FIRST FLIGHT ON DECEMBER 1 AS PROPOSED. AFTER THAT, THEY WOULD HAVE TO REVERT TO PRESENT CHANGE OF GAUGE POINT AND ROUTING.

4. PA REP HERE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF NEME'S POSITION. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT FONOFF WILL HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON DNTAC DECISION AND BELIEVE IT WILL STAND.

5. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ONLY THING WHICH WOULD MOVE NEME WOULD BE SOME THREATENED RETALITORY ACTION BY CAB. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNBALANCING OF THE STATUS QUO BY THE USG, WHICH MAY NOT BE DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME. INSTEAD, EMBASSY SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER SOME RESPONSE TO THE GOA NOTE OF JULY 18 COULD BE MADE. THROUGHOUT ECOM COUNSELOR'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS AND DNTAC THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONTINUING DISSATISFACTION WITH FAILURE OF THE US TO RESPOND TO THE JULY 18 NOTE. EVEN IF A REPLY DOES NOT SETTLE ANYTHING, IT WOULD INDICATE OFFICIALLY THAT WE HAVE NOT CLOSED OFF THE DIALOGUE.
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6. DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS AS TO FURTHER STEPS WE SHOULD TAKE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
MONTLLOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRLINES, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS08714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740346-0943
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974114/aaaaacxv.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 262147
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: NEW PAN AM (PA) SCHEDULE FILINGS
TAGS: EAIR, AR, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005